

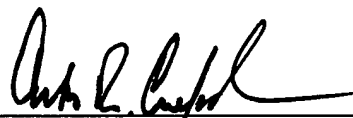
**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims, without prejudice, and to place the claims in proper U.S. claim formatting style. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Arthur R. Crawford  
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:jsm  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100